

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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UNCLAS NICOSIA 0221

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CY, EEC
SUBJECT: EC/CYPRUS ASSOCIATION: STATEMENT BY MINISTER COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY PIERIDES

REF: NICOSIA 0100

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM LOBBYING EFFORT IN EUROPE,
MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, PIERIDES, MADE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON CYPRUS TELEVISION:

A. QUOTE AS IS ALREADY KNOWN, THE E.E.C. COUNCIL OF
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MINISTERS RECENTLY DEALT ANEW WITH THE QUESTION OF DETERMINING
THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO
E.E.C. COUNTRIES AND DECIDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE
CONTINUED WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE
COMMUNITY THAN BEFORE. THE COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT
THE MATTER BE BROUGHT BEFORE IT AT ITS MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 7, ON THE BASIS OF A REPORT TO BE PREPARED

BY THE COMMISSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

B. FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE E.E.C. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER, MR ANDERSEN, AND FROM OTHER INFORMATION AND EVENTS, IT EMERGES THAT A BETTER CLIMATE HAS NOW BEEN CREATED AMONG MANY E.E.C. COUNTRIES AND THE E.E.C. COMMISSION FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS WHICH IS CRUCIAL TO CYPRUS.

C. THIS IS A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT AND A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF OUR FARMERS AND OF CYPRUS IN GENERAL. THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE OBSTACLES HAVE BEEN OVERCOME. TO THIS EFFECT, GREATER EFFORT AND CONSTANT ALERT ON OUR PART IS NECESSARY. AS I HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED IN THE

PAST WE SHALL LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED TO SECURE A FINAL SETTLEMENT SATISFYING THE NEEDS OF OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY. THIS WAS THE AIM OF THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT 1977 WHICH RECENTLY CULMINATED IN PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S MESSAGE TO ALL HEADS OF E.E.C. MEMBER-COUNTRIES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE E.E.C. COMMISSION, MR. JENKINS. THIS WAS ALSO THE AIM OF THE PERSONAL CONTACTS WHICH MY COLLEAGUES, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND MYSELF HAVE HAD JOINTLY OR SEPARATELY WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE E.E.C. MEMBER-COUNTRIES AND E.E.C. COMMISSION OFFICIALS.

D. IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS NEXT TUESDAY. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN SUCH CONCESSIONS FROM THE E.E.C. AS TO COMPENSATE, MORE OR LESS, FOR THE LOSS OF THE PREFERENTIAL STATUS WHICH OUR PRODUCE ENJOYED IN THE BRITISH MARKET.

E. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE E.E.C., TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING CYPRUS AND THE FACT THAT CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS DO NOT POSE ANY DANGER TO E.E.C. FARMERS, WILL LOOK INTO OUR DEMANDS IN A POSITIVE MANNER AND WILL MEET THEM DURING THE SECOND PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY IMPROVING ITS PROPOSALS. END QUOTE.

2. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD PIERIDES SAID, "THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE MATTER WAS STRESSED BY THE CYPRUS SIDE AS WELL, IN THE SENSE THAT ANY UPHEAVAL IN THE CYPRUS ECONOMY, BECAUSE OF UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS GOVERNING CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE E.C.C. WOULD BE A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION OF OUR POLITICAL PROBLEM."

3. HE WAS ALSO ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE TO SIGN A TRADE AGREEMENT INSTEAD OF AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. THIS REFLECTS ANTI-ASSOCIATION POSITION TAKEN BY CYPRUS COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF, PAPAIOANNOU, (REF A). PIERIDES REPLIED THAT THIS WAS CONSIDERED BY THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT IN 1972 WHEN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WAS FIRST SIGNED, "AFTER WEIGHING ALL FACTORS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE ISLAND'S TRADE INTERESTS, AND PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS, TO SIGN AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. THERE ARE NO SUCH FACTS AS TO CONVINCE US THAT WITH A TRADE AGREEMENT WE COULD SECURE BETTER TERMS. THE GOVERNMENT CON-

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TINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT SERVES CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS BETTER IAND IT COULD BE SAID THAT RAISING A QUESTION OF CHANGING THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND GENERALLY ON OUR TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE E.E.C."

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